Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Second Draft
June 1998

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INTRODUCTION

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

Plenty Coups (*Aleck-chea-ahoosh)* was one of the most important Native American leaders in the history of the Western Plains/Rocky Mountain region. His influence ranks with that of Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, Chief Joseph, and other well-known leaders. He is not as well known to the current American public because he led no wars against the Whites. Instead, he was a mediator within Native American and United States government circles, and he was influential and respected in that role.

Historic Perspectives Study on the Life of Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crow Tribe (by C.Adrian Heidenreich Ph.D., December 1993) identifies five perspectives of special importance in the life of Plenty Coups:

1. He lived a long life of 84 years (1848 to 1932). His life spanned the period from traditional days of nomadic buffalo hunting, through the Plains Indian wars and Little Big Horn (Custer) battle, to control over Native Americans on reservations as "wards" of the U.S. Government, to World War I and Native American citizenship, and finally to the Great Depression and the edge of the New Deal of President Franklin Roosevelt.

2. He was well known and respected by many non-Native American leaders and became known by the Whites as "the Chief of All Chiefs" by the time he represented Native Americans at the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in 1921.

3. He was well known and respected by many other Native Americans, in his earlier years as a worthy opponent in battle and in his later years as an effective diplomat in negotiations with non-Native Americans. He served as an ambassador and statesman.

4. He lived according to his own Crow religion and values, which began with vision quests as a young man. Following the example of the chickadee, to be observant and learn from others, he accommodated to the non-Native American culture both nationally and on his own reservation.

5. He remained politically aware and active right up to the time of his death. He engaged in negotiations with Native American agents, United States Senators and Congressmen, tribal attorneys, railroad companies, and cattlemen and sheepmen over such issues as land sales, grazing, oil and gas leases, farming developments, irrigation projects, education, and tribal rights and government.

MISSION STATEMENT

Chief Plenty Coups State Park will preserve, protect, and interpret the story of Chief Plenty Coups, the history and culture of the Apsaalooke, today known as the Crow people, and the history of the area. The park will strive to attain the Chief's desire to be a "park for all people," and will serve as a facility to further the Chief's ideals of education for and peaceful co-existence among all cultures.

MANAGEMENT BACKGROUND

In 1928, Chief Plenty Coups deeded a total of 189.2 acres of his allotment to the U.S. Government. Forty acres were to be set aside to be used as a nation's park for all peoples. The remaining acreage was to be leased and/or sold and the revenue used to support the park.

The United States Government was not able to legally accept title to the land, but went ahead and held a formal ceremony to honor the Chief's request. The ceremony was held in 1929, with World War I war hero, Brigadier-General James G. Harbord, accepting the land as a gift in the name of the United States Government.

After the Chief's death in 1932, the Big Horn County Commissioners acquired title to the farm and homestead. They used income generated from leasing the farm to protect and maintain the two-story log house and the property.

Then in 1951, because of the friendship between Plenty Coups and Billings Kiwanis president, George Snell, the Kiwanis Club became the park trustee on August 8, 1951. The Kiwanis Club paid for a caretaker and also restored a log building in which Plenty Coups kept a general merchandise store. The Kiwanis club also restored the gravesite, and operated a museum in the south addition of the Chief's house.

From 1938 to 1964, Bill Bowman of Edgar, Montana, held a cattle-grazing lease on Chief Plenty Coups State Park. He also served as the custodian of the park and lived in Plenty Coups' old log house until 1964. In 1965, jurisdiction of the site was transferred to the Parks Division of the Montana Department of Fish and Game when the parties involved agreed that the site would be most appropriately managed as a state park. Cattle were excluded from the area of the park used by people and the house was set aside for display. In 1972, a park manager was employed, and resided in a mobile home on the park grounds. A department owned mobile home was provided for the resident manager in 1991.

Today Chief Plenty Coups State Park consists of 195.4 acres, which includes 5.00 acres purchased to allow for construction of the entrance that is in use today. The park includes a two-story log house, Plenty Coups' store building, a small museum built in 1972

to house Plenty Coups' artifacts, public picnic facilities, burial site, and the Medicine Spring just to the north of the main house.

This plan will serve to guide the operations, management, and staffing of the park for the next 5 to 10 years. This plan will also be used as the base document from which the Master Site Plan for the park will be developed. The Master Site Plan will, in turn, define facilities design and development for the park.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR A PLAN

In 1968, Theodore Wirth and Associates, Inc. prepared a design analysis for Chief Plenty Coups State Park. In 1970 and 1971, a planning team including staff from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (then Fish and Game) and members of the Crow Cultural Committee, coordinated the planning and design of the Chief Plenty Coups Museum. The building was finished in the fall of 1972, and was opened to the public in the summer of 1973. The first museum exhibits were completed in the spring of 1973, and permanent exhibits were completed in 1978.

In 1976, a master development plan for the park was drafted by the department's Design and Construction section, but this plan was only partially implemented due to limited funding. Also, since 1976 management philosophies have evolved, and many parts of the 1976 plan, such as a trail system on the west side of Pryor Creek, are now viewed as over-development, and are not part of our current planning for Chief Plenty Coups State Park. Many other elements of the 1976 plan, such as vegetative screening around the administrative area, are carried forth in this draft management plan.

This plan will address specific issues at Chief Plenty Coups State Park including appropriate and respectful management; preservation and protection of cultural resources such as the Chief's House, the Medicine Spring, the marked and unmarked grave sites within the park, and the sacred artifacts in the museum collection. Other issues will include determining what is the appropriate level of management and staffing for the park and the museum; what is the appropriate level and nature of development for the museum and the park; and how should necessary park staffing, operations and facilities development be funded.

In 1992, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks arrived at five department goals that will guide the department for the next 5 years. Among these, "Goal C" is to develop a "quality and financially sound State Park System," and "Goal D" is to "Elevate the importance of public education and participation in all program areas to afford the citizens the opportunity to better understand, appreciate, and make informed decisions about our natural and cultural

resources." Comprehensive management planning is essential to achieve quality state parks, and also works well to enhance public education and public participation.

It should be noted that Chief Plenty Coups State Park is part of the Montana State Park System, which in turn is part of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Certain issues which impact the park's operations, such as fees, commercial use, contracts and purchasing, etc. are governed by department policies and state laws. Although there are processes to implement change in these areas, these changes must be evaluated on a system-wide and statewide basis. This draft management plan, therefore, focuses only on the changes that can be made within Chief Plenty Coups State Park. The park will otherwise operate within the policies and guidelines of FWP.

PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The planning process began in December of 1992, with selection of a planning team, and agreement on a planning timetable. Major issues were selected by The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council, Park Staff, and focus group participants. The First Draft Plan was presented to the public at 4 public open houses in July 1993. Over 70 copies of the first draft were mailed out to interested parties, and announcements and legal advertising was posted in local and statewide newspapers.

For any development to take place at a state park, an environmental review is mandated under the Montana Environmental Policy Act or MEPA (Section 75-1-100, MCA), and additional public comment is required under the State Parks and Fishing Access Sites Improvements Act (Section 23-1-110, MCA). In the interest of efficiency, the management planning process has been combined with public comment procedures to satisfy all of these requirements at one time. This will allow the public to review all aspects of the proposed plans for Chief Plenty Coups State Park at one time, and will allow managers to efficiently proceed with implementation of the final plan's recommendations. Although some action taken at the park will require specific review such as for compliance with preservation laws, this document will be presented for public review and comment for the MEPA/NEPA processes.

SITE RESTRICTIONS

The following restrictions apply to implementing any changes in land use or operations at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. These restrictions were contained in the original 1928 deed between Plenty Coups and Big Horn County, through the deed from Big Horn County to the Kiwanis Club of Billings, and then from the Kiwanis Club of Billings to the State of Montana.

1. One room of the Chief's House shall be set aside for protection and display of "...all articles of historical value, or interest to the Crow Tribe or other people, of which the said Plenty Coos... possessed, where they may be properly cared for..." (from Trust Deed, November 27, 1961) (Note: The museum was built to protect and display the artifacts better than the house could have done.)

2. The Chief's house must be insured so that it could be rebuilt in the case of fire. (from Trust Deed, November 27, 1961)

3. The marked graves of Plenty Coups, Kills Together, and Strikes the Iron shall be protected and properly cared for. (from Trust Deed, November 27, 1961)

4. Two utility easements for maintenance, repair and operation of an underground cable. (granted to The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company and its successor, U.S. West Telephone Company) One easement is 20 feet wide and 1674 feet long, the other is 20 feet wide and 961 feet long. These easements were granted October 8, 1969 and June 16, 1972, respectively.

5. An agricultural lease for farming on 60 acres across the Edgar Road from the park entrance. This lease is a 3 year lease that expires in 2001. A hay lease is also in effect on 40 acres within the park. It also expires in 2001.

6. Five acres were purchased on February 7, 1969 to provide for a new park entrance. The only deed restriction on this 5 acre parcel is that the department continue to allow a prescriptive public right-of-way easement for the existing Edgar Road. Since this land was purchased with federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), additional federal restrictions, such as maintaining the area for public use apply.

Analysis Of Restrictions

The above represents all restrictions known to apply to the land area of Chief Plenty Coups State Park. Current park operations are in compliance with these restrictions. The proposed plan and all alternatives will also be in compliance with these restrictions.

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council was formed in 1992 by Crow tribal members, non-tribal members, local historians, museum professionals, local business people, and other interested persons. This group has been granted non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. The Council works to support park operations and achievement of goals by raising funds for park programs, sponsoring and assisting with special events, and advising park staff in regard to sensitive cultural matters.

MAJOR ISSUES

The major issues discussed in this section are those identified and evaluated by park visitors, Crow Tribal members, concerned members of the public, and FWP staff. All issues are addressed in the proposed plan and/or the alternatives, but not necessarily in the order that they are presented in this section.

The general format will be to identify issues in this section and identify alternatives in the following sections.

For example, the management of the historic and cultural resources in the park is inseparable from the issues of Crow Culture and Spiritual Concerns. Therefore, alternative plans relating to historic and cultural resource management are discussed under the "Cultural Resource Management" section of each alternative.

CROW CULTURE AND SPIRITUAL CONCERNS

Many aspects of the park are of great spiritual value to the Crow people, and virtually every aspect of the park is important to Crow culture.

The sacred Medicine Spring is what originally attracted Chief Plenty Coups to this location. It flows year round, and its water is used by many Crow people for healing purposes and for ceremonies. When dancers at Sun Dances break their four day fast, it is water from this spring that they drink. Many people, both Native American and non-Native American, leave offerings in and around the spring. Management issues in regard to the spring include access to the spring, management of water quality and quantity, protection of the soils around the spring, disturbance to the source of the spring, control of vegetation in the spring, and whether or not offerings should be periodically removed, and what should be done with these items. Determining the appropriate level of interpretation, if any, is also essential.

The Medicine Spring is of great interest to Native American and non-Native American people alike. The spring needs to be available to those who seek it for spiritual reasons, but at the same time, the surrounding soils need to be protected from overuse and erosion. People often leave offerings at the spring. The subject of whether or not to eventually remove offerings needs to be addressed. Chief Plenty Coups maintained a wooden structure over the spring to protect the spring from animals and children. This raises the question of whether or not it will be appropriate to reconstruct this wooden structure. Many visitors inquire about the spring, and interpretation is currently inadequate. By helping visitors to understand the significance of the spring, we can hopefully better protect and preserve the spring. Although

there is no indication that there are any threats to the water source that supplies the spring, any further development in the area, particularly the development of any large wells, will need to take the spring into consideration.

Within the museum collection, are over 600 objects, as well as hundreds of photographs and manuscripts of which Plenty Coups was either the guardian or owner. Several of these items, such as medicine bundles, are sacred to the Crow people. Issues to be decided are whether display, exhibition, loan, and storage practices are appropriate and respectful. It is imperative that sacred items be treated properly.

On the park grounds are the marked graves of Plenty Coups, Kills Together (his first wife), and Strikes the Iron (his second wife). To the left of Strikes the Iron's grave is the unmarked grave of her daughter Mary. Although the grave site area is considered to be respectfully designed, children often play at this site, and sometimes adults climb over the barriers to get closer to the graves.

Also within the park are numerous unmarked graves. Issues here concern whether the current treatment of the marked graves is appropriate and respectful, and if the current protection of the unmarked graves is adequate.

Finally, there are the general issues of appropriateness of park and museum interpretation, permission for research and publication, and appropriateness of activities taking place in the park. It is imperative that interpretation be consistent with Crow interpretation of their culture, and not just consistent with accepted non-Native American interpretation of Crow culture.

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND INVOLVEMENT

While Chief Plenty Coups resided at Pryor by his Medicine Spring, his followers were gathered nearby. His home was a place of activity. In 1928 he emphasized that his home and surrounding land would be left as a park. To this day, the local community uses the historic site as a community park. It has been developed to accommodate recreational use and the community supports additional development. This park is the only developed park in the Pryor area and is used heavily by the Crow people from all areas of the reservation for birthdays, graduations, family picnics and a variety of Crow celebrations. Local non-Native American families use the park for similar occasions. In 1996, 37,431 people visited the park. Of this number, about 25,000 people use only the outdoor park facilities and 12,500 people visit both the museum and the outdoor facilities.

Park constituents have, over the past few years, expressed interest in park improvements, such as additional parking, more picnic tables, shade trees, repair to the water system, group use facilities, a playground, camping area, and handicapped accessible facilities. A desire to see road improvements within the park and to the park from Billings and Edgar are expressed most often.

Local community and Crow involvement in park management has fluctuated through the years. The recently formed Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council has community, tribal, museum, educational, and tourism representation from a wide area. A similar advisory group existed from 1970 to 1976, and helped guide early development of the park. The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council is now active in park events, operations, and in funding various cooperative projects.

HISTORIC/CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

The primary historic resources at the park include the Chief's house and store, the Medicine Spring, the marked and unmarked graves, and the artifacts in the museum collection. Two monuments in the park are also noteworthy: the boulder monument to Chief Plenty Coups at his grave site (presented by the Billings Kiwanis Club), and a Bozeman trail marker located near the museum.

The house and store are the most visible historic resources in the park. The house was built in 1884. The construction date of the store is not known. The store is part of a larger group of buildings which once occupied this site, most of which were attributed to Chief Plenty Coups. Preservation, restoration or reconstruction of the house and store, as well as reconstruction of the other structures and public access to them, are issues that need to be addressed.

A certain amount of security is required for protection of the marked graves, along with appropriate interpretation to inform visitors of proper respect for the graves. Currently the Park Manager lives on site and is trained as a Montana Ex-Officio Warden or Conservation Officer with the authority to prosecute non-Native American people damaging these resources. (Under federal law, enforcement in regard to tribal members is the responsibility of BIA police and tribal law enforcement authorities.) Currently, park staff often work inside the museum, at remote parts of the park, and at times are outside of the park altogether.

Protection of the unmarked graves involves site security patrolling only. The issue of treatment of the unmarked graves will be discussed in the proposed plan and alternatives

sections. An interpretive trail, once proposed for the north ridge, is no longer being considered due to potential conflicts with these grave sites.

Other historic preservation issues include restoration of the Chief's orchards, re-establishment of a small herd of horses, and reconstruction of other structures that existed on the property. These issues will all be treated as restoration issues, and will be further researched before any action is taken.

In addition to the historic and cultural resources in the park, the area is rich in archeological resources. An inventory of archeological sites within the park was done by Steve Aaberg in November of 1978. This inventory will be consulted during development planning in order to protect these sensitive sites, but it is not included in this plan.

TOURISM

Tourism is the second largest employer in Montana's economy. Montana State Parks play an important role in statewide, regional and local tourism by providing quality historic, cultural and natural sites for visitors. Chief Plenty Coups emphasized that his home be a gathering place and an educational facility. Chief Plenty Coups State Park now attracts visitors from all over the United States and Canada, and from many foreign countries.

The major issue in regard to tourism centers around promotion. Unlike "for profit" attractions, revenues at most state parks, including Chief Plenty Coups State Park, never match operating expenses. In other words, more visitors does not mean increased net revenue. More visitors often means larger operating costs and a greater operating deficit. However, more visitors to a state park usually benefits the surrounding tourism economy. The issue to be decided in this plan is how much promotion is appropriate for this park, and how much increased visitation can the park resources safely handle.

PARK MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

State Park systems throughout the country have historically been underfunded. As visitation increases, despite increased revenues, stress on the site, system and personnel also increases. It is safe to assume that staff and resources at Chief Plenty Coups State Park will always fall somewhat short of demand. Key issues to be determined here are how to prioritize management tasks, projects and needs.

Changes in fees are recommended by the State Parks Division and adopted by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on a biennial schedule. It is beyond the scope of this management plan to address changes in the fee system.

The Park Manager currently resides in a department owned mobile home within the administrative area of the park. This arrangement provides security and additional visitor services by being located prominently in the park. Issues here include evaluating the appropriateness of employee housing within the park, possibly relocating the employee housing area to a less prominent location within the park, screening the housing area from the main park area, or acquiring an adjacent property and housing the Park Manager on that property.

Currently there is an agricultural lease in effect at the park to farm 60 acres in the southeast part of the park. There is also a mowing contract in place to control weeds in the areas adjacent to the formal lawn areas currently maintained by park staff. The issue is whether this lease and contract are appropriate at this park.

Other operations questions and issues include the level of recreational development, such as playgrounds and a campground; site security; and concessioned activities, such as guided horseback rides and camping tepee rentals.

MUSEUM MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS, AND AREA INTERPRETATION

As noted above, attention must be given to various versions of a story when designing interpretation, museum exhibits, special events, etc. This method is more time consuming, and requires more staff time and funding than methods typically used.

According to the Museum Assessment Program Level 1 (M.A.P. I Survey) done in December of 1993 by Joy L. Poole, there are several key elements that need to be addressed. They are:

- Recruitment and retention of a core of professionally trained staff members and volunteers.

- Periodic audience surveys to determine the present constituencies and interests of the museum audience.

- An active financial development role on the part of the Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council in support of the development, exhibitions and programming goals set by the administration and staff.

The M.A.P. I report also states that:

> "The financial resources and staff may never exist for the Chief Plenty Coups Museum and State Park to actively collect, research, interpret and exhibit in the areas of history, anthropology, (cultural diversity or cross cultural interaction), and the environment. Yet, it is possible for the museum to collect, research and exhibit in KEY areas, while renting exhibits and presenting programs in others. The park and museum must carefully avoid the temptation to become a 'jack of all trades, master of none.'"

The key areas that the museum currently focuses on are the life history of Chief Plenty Coups, and the story of the Crow people. The expansion or contraction of this list of key areas of focus for the museum needs to be decided. Different strategies will be discussed in the different alternatives.

Space in the current museum building is severely limited. Temporary exhibit space, meeting space, room for indoor educational programs and room to expand existing restrooms to meet current A.D.A. standards is not available. Existing plumbing also needs renovation.

Museum hours of operation, currently at 9am-5pm for 7 days a week during the May to September season, is another issue to be addressed. Expansion of either daily hours or the museum season to accommodate early or late travelers would require additional resources; reduction of the hours or days per week would free resources for other priorities within the park.

Another issue is the subject of consignment sales of books and crafts and of concession operations within the museum or the park. Book and consignment sales adds about $3,000 per year to park revenue, provides visitors the opportunity to purchase authentic and educational items, and enhances the local economy. A concession can accomplish even more in these areas. The drawback of each is that they demand staff time for administration.

FUNDING

The 1996/1997 operations budget and staffing levels for Chief Plenty Coups State Park and museum are listed below:

FY 97 Personnel Costs	$50,326
FY 97 Supplies and Materials Costs	$18,329
FY 97 Total Operations Costs	$68,655

Total Staff Positions

- FWP Permanent.....1 Park Manager
- FWP Seasonal aggregate..... 2 part time Administrative Assistant positions; 2 part time Maintenance positions

Note: One full time Museum Assistant and Interpreter was loaned to the park from the Crow Tribal Administration from May 1992 through April 1994. The ability to obtain similar help in the future is uncertain.

Total FTE (Full Time Equivalents) (FWP Funding)

- Permanent.....1.17
- Seasonal.....0.95

TOTAL.....2.12

(**Note:** One FTE represents the time that one full time person works in one year, which is 2080 hours. Permanent position FTE exceeds 1.00 because several regional parks positions also provide some management assistance from the Billings regional office.)

Regional Parks Manager

The Regional Parks Manager is responsible for administration and supervision of the Parks Program in the region. The Regional Parks Manager, together with the Park Manager, is responsible for program planning and management and coordination in concert with regional and statewide goals and objectives. The Regional Parks Manager is required to submit recommendations for consideration by the Regional Supervisor and Division Administrator for final action.

Park Operations Specialist (Chief Plenty Coups State Park Manager)

The park is under the direct supervision of a Park Operations Specialist who serves as the Park Manager. The Park Manager reports to the Regional Parks Manager in the Billings office. Budgets and staff levels are established from the Regional Office. The Park Manager is responsible for:

- Overall area administration
- Budget management
- Supervision and recruitment of staff
- Site security
- Site maintenance
- Museum management, operations and maintenance
- Interpretive planning, research and implementation
- Park promotion, public presentations and tourism liaison
- Short-term planning
- Revenue accounting
- Liaison with Friends of Chief Plenty Coups Association
- Other general Fish, Wildlife and Parks obligations

Administrative Assistant

A temporary administrative assistant works part time during the off-season and full time during the summer months. The job duties of the museum clerk include:

- Museum receptionist
- Park and museum secretary
- Coordinator for all book and consignment sales
- Assists with coordination of annual museum projects
- Assists with grant administration
- Assists with budget accounting and bookkeeping
- Assists researchers, photographers, contracted curators, registrars, etc.
- Daily maintenance and cleaning of the museum building
- Supervises day to day park operations in absence of park manager

Maintenance Worker

A part-time maintenance worker performs the following duties during the period that the park is open (May 1 through September 30):

- Grounds maintenance and mowing

- Equipment maintenance and repair
- Assist with supervision of youth workers and work programs
- Fence repair
- Litter control
- Restroom maintenance
- Building maintenance (painting, repairs, etc.)
- Sign maintenance (in park and all directional signs to park)

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STAFFING LEVEL

There is currently one full time permanent employee devoted to Chief Plenty Coups State Park and museum. The Park Manager must divide his time between the management of the park, maintenance work, artifact and exhibit care, interpretation, visitor services, research requests, and many other diverse and specialized duties.

A Museum Assistant is occasionally assigned to the park by the Crow Tribe or by various federal programs. In the past, this position assisted the Park Manager, assisted researchers, maintained artifacts and exhibits, and was the park's primary cultural and historic interpreter. This position has been reassigned by the tribal administration to other duties, and at present it is unknown whether it will be replaced. Some of the person's duties will be covered by the remaining staff members, and other duties will remain undone.

Of the two temporary positions at the park, the administrative assistant is funded at 0.44 FTE, which equals about 5 months of full time work per year. Functions such as word processing, collection management, consignments, inventory, billing, accounting, grants administration are year-round duties.

The Temporary Maintenance Worker provides maintenance assistance for the park in the areas of lawn and building maintenance, restroom cleaning, trash collection, etc. Since the position is funded for 4 to 5 months of the year, it does not provide all of the maintenance work that the park or museum requires.

No staff members have any professional museum operations training. Even if funding was available, there is only limited staff time to attend the training with the current staffing level. Staffing is not available for periodic artifact inventory and assessment. Museum hours of operation cannot be reliably maintained in the event of employee illness.

The greatest challenge with the current staffing level is that it is not adequate to allow recruitment and supervision of an adequate number of volunteers, which could then greatly enhance operations. The current staff is often unable, due to time constraints, to seek out, apply for, and administer many of the grants that are available to assist museums such as this one.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

RESOURCE TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	ALTERNATIVE A (Preservation Emphasis)	ALTERNATIVE B (No Action)
Cultural Resource Management	• Medicine Spring and marked graves will be protected through presence of park staff and appropriate interpretation. • Medicine Spring will be available to Crow and non-Crow people. • Offerings will be left to natural forces. Elders will be consulted when difficult situations arise. • The Chief's house is scheduled for interior stabilization work in 1997-98, which will permit guided tours inside. Restoration of the house and store interiors will be studied. • Unmarked graves above Pryor Creek will be protected by presence of park staff. • Museum artifacts will continue to be stored, and/or exhibited in upgraded storage facilities and exhibits. Conservation treatments on artifacts will be performed. • Artifacts will be available for bonafide researchers monitored by park staff on a limited basis.	• Medicine Spring access will be discouraged. • Offerings will be handled as in proposed plan. • Area of park containing unmarked graves will be closed to public use. • Chief's house and store will be stabilized, and any necessary exterior restoration performed. Interior of house will remain closed to the public. • Marked graves will remain as they are today. Staff emphasis will be on patrolling and protecting known and unknown cultural resources. • Emphasis with artifacts will be on protection and preservation rather than exhibits. Conservation treatments will be performed. • Research requests will be limited to research necessary to better protect artifacts.	• Medicine Spring will continue to be open to the general public, but with no maintenance performed. • Offerings will be handled as in proposed plan. • Marked graves will not be interpreted, but will be cordoned off as they are now. • Unmarked graves will remain as they are today. • The Chief's house will be stabilized but not restored. • Staff will monitor known and unknown cultural resources within the park whenever possible to protect against damage. • Artifacts will mostly be kept in storage, with some exhibited. Conservation treatments will be a low priority. • Artifacts will generally not be available for research.

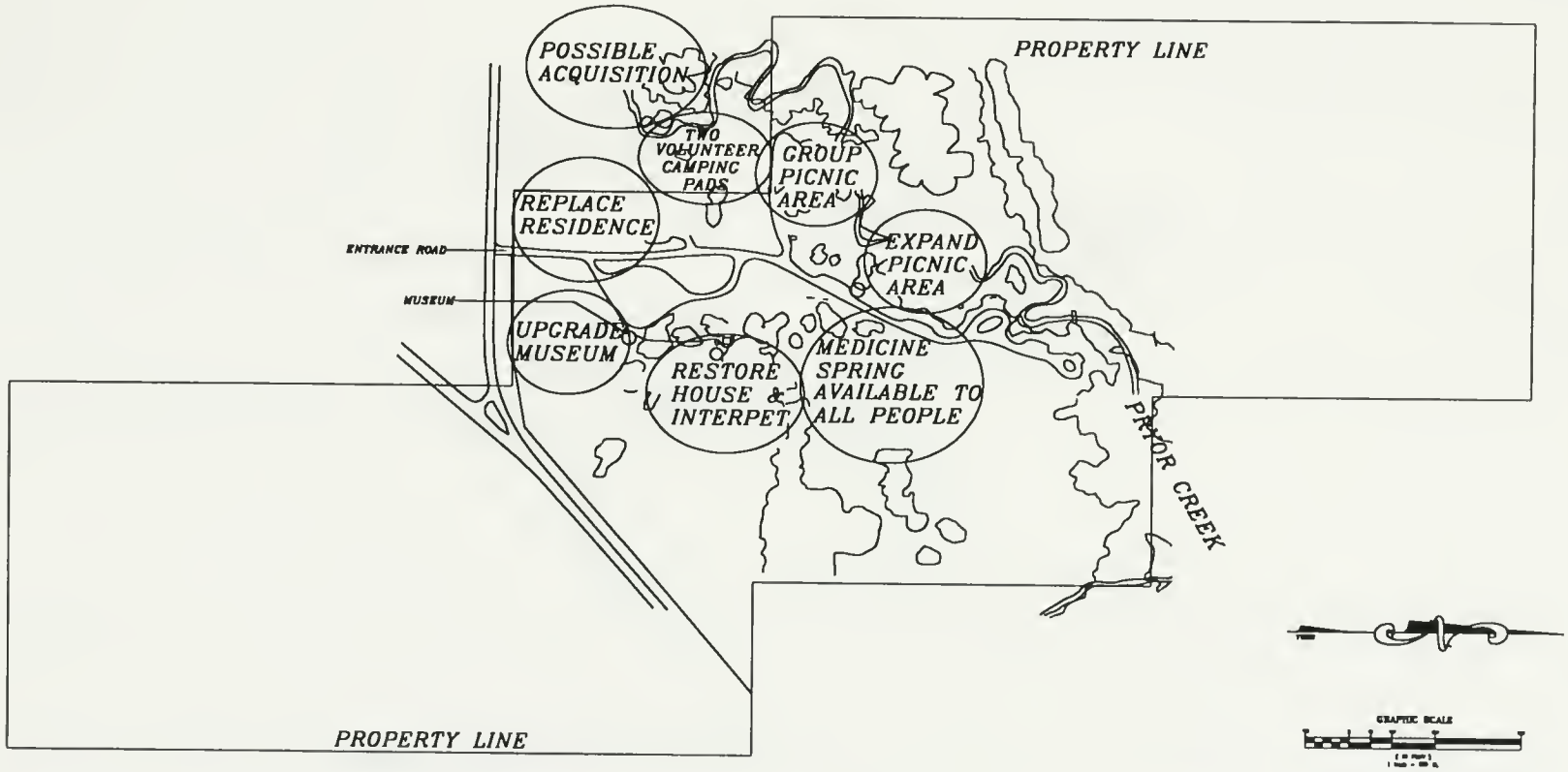
RESOURCE TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	ALTERNATIVE A (Preservation Emphasis)	ALTERNATIVE B (No Action)
Natural Resource Management	• Park area will be managed in four zones. • Historic/Cultural zone emphasis will be on prevention of damage to historic and cultural features. • Recreational/Administrative zone emphasis will be on visitor services, access and safety, and aesthetics. Current maintenance standards will be retained. • Agricultural zone emphasis will be on maintaining historic accuracy and on weed control and fire prevention in this area. • Natural vegetation zone emphasis will be on maintaining natural plant communities and wildlife habitat.	• Zones will be the same as in proposed plan, except that there will be less emphasis on visitor services and aesthetics, and less formal lawn will be maintained in the recreational zone. Maintenance standards will be lower than current, with most facilities receiving less frequent maintenance.	• Zones will be the same as in the proposed plan, except that there will be minimal attention placed on visitor services and aesthetics, and minimal formal lawn will be maintained in the recreation zone. Maintenance standards will be lower than current, with most facilities receiving less frequently maintenance.

RESOURCE TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	ALTERNATIVE A (Preservation Emphasis)	ALTERNATIVE B (No Action)
Visitor Services and Interpretation	• Visitor services will be improved to include a moderate increase in the number of picnic tables and grills, and increased accessibility to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) • Interpretive program will be expanded. • Chief's house and store will be restored and stabilized. Museum improvements would include accessible restrooms, upgraded permanent exhibits and temporary exhibit space. • Oral history collection will be developed. • Museum hours will remain at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	• Visitor services would receive minimal increase. • Picnic areas would have accessibility upgraded to comply with ADA, but would not be expanded. • Interpretive program would remain at 1993 level. • Chief's house and store would be restored and stabilized. • Museum improvements would be limited to artifacts storage improvement and accessibility. • Museum and park hours would remain the same, but could not be guaranteed for visitors.	• Visitor services would remain at their current level. • Picnic areas would be upgraded to meet the minimum requirements of ADA, but would not be expanded. • Interpretive program would receive less emphasis. • Chief's house would not be restored. • Museum and park hours would remain the same, but could not be guaranteed for visitors.
Park Operations and Staffing	• Department funding for staffing and operations will remain similar to fiscal year 1997 levels. Grants and partnerships will be sought to fund increased staffing levels.	• Staffing and operations will remain similar to fiscal year 1997 levels.	• Staffing and operations will remain similar to fiscal year 1997 levels.
Museum Operations	• "Professionally operated small museum" • Key focus would be life of Chief Plenty Coups and the story of the Crow people. • Some temporary exhibits and limited special events to provide education in areas of key focus.	• "Professionally operated small museum," but primary emphasis on preservation rather than education. • Key focus would be life of Chief Plenty Coups and the story of the Crow people.	• Museum would remain in a "caretaker" status. • Minimal interpretation or visitor services.

RESOURCE TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	ALTERNATIVE A (Preservation Emphasis)	ALTERNATIVE B (No Action)
Land Acquisition	• Acquisition or long term lease would be attempted on the adjacent parcel to the west to enhance visitor use and protect aesthetics and to preserve integrity of Kills Together's original allotment. • Total acreage acquired would be 15 acres.	• Acquisition would be attempted for the parcel adjacent on the west side of the park to enhance visitor use and protect aesthetics. • Total acreage acquired would be 15 acres.	• No land acquisition would be made under this alternative. • Total acreage acquired and total costs would be zero.
Development Priorities	• Development would primarily emphasize resource protection, with attention given to visitor services. • Park water systems would be replaced and upgraded. • The Chief's house would be monitored and studied for restoration when funding (most likely from grants) becomes available. • Day Use areas expanded. • Accessibility upgraded. • Museum would be renovated to include temporary exhibit space and a meeting room within existing space. • Manager's mobile home would be studied for replacement with a conventional structure. • Current road system would be paved, and parking moderately expanded.	• Development would emphasize resource protection, with minor attention given to visitor services. • Park water systems would be replaced and upgraded. • The Chief's house would be stabilized. • The museum and one picnic area would be renovated to improve accessibility.	• Development would be minimal under this proposal, and would be limited to maintenance, renovation and replacement of existing structures and systems. • Water system would be replaced, and museum accessibility would be brought into compliance with A.D.A.

RESOURCE TOPIC	PROPOSED ACTION	ALTERNATIVE A (Preservation Emphasis)	ALTERNATIVE B (No Action)
Future Plans and Studies	• Resource Mgmt. Plan • Master Site Plan • Restoration Research • Interpretive Plan • MAP II & MAP III studies • Nation Historic Landmark Proposal • Mgmt. Plan update every 5 years • Complete Botanical Survey within 5 years • Visitor/ Audience Survey every five years	• Resource Mgmt. Plan • Restoration Research • Nat'l Hist. Landmark proposal • Mgmt. Plan update every 5 years • Complete Botanical Survey within 5 years	• Mgmt. Plan update every 5 years

PROPOSED ACTION



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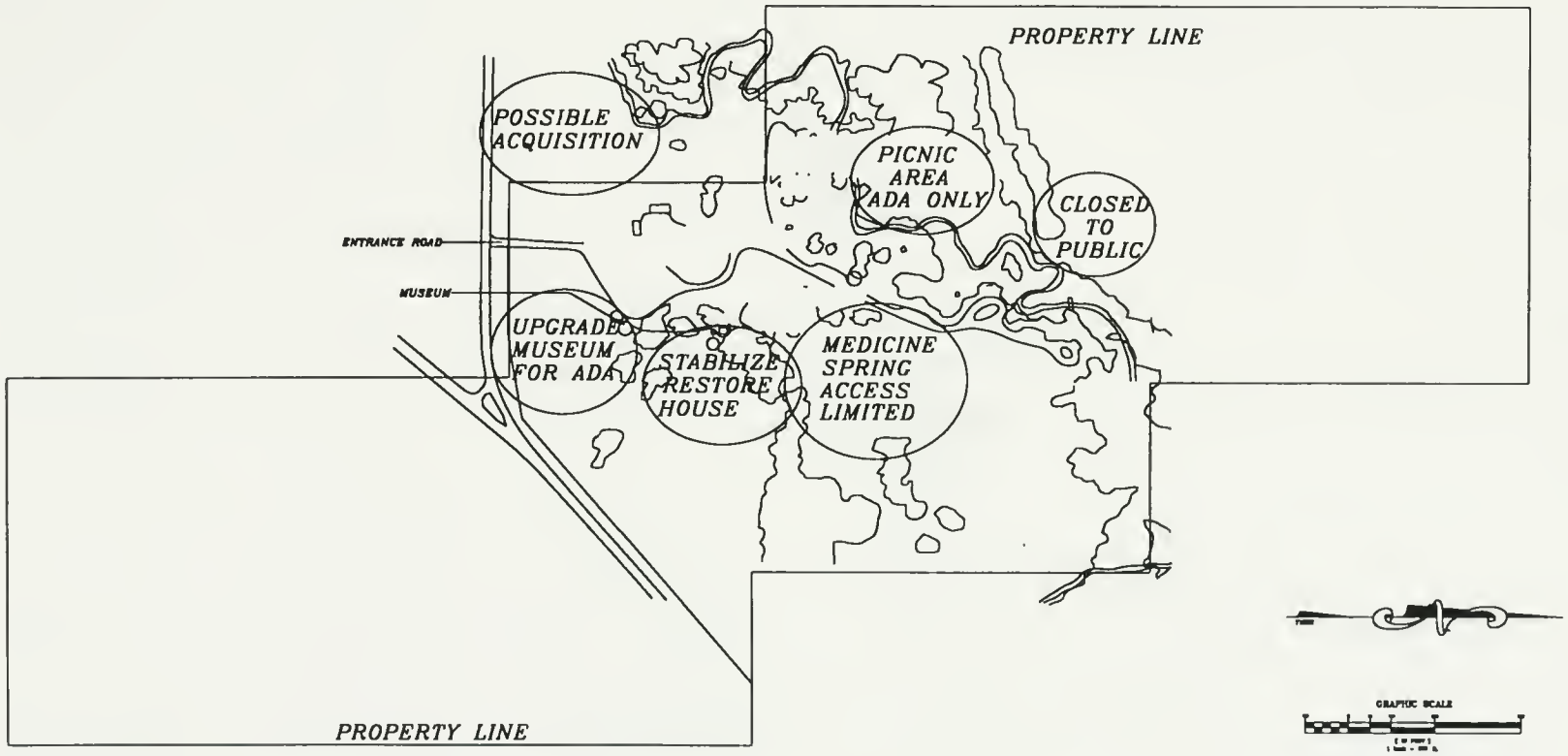
ALTERNATIVE A



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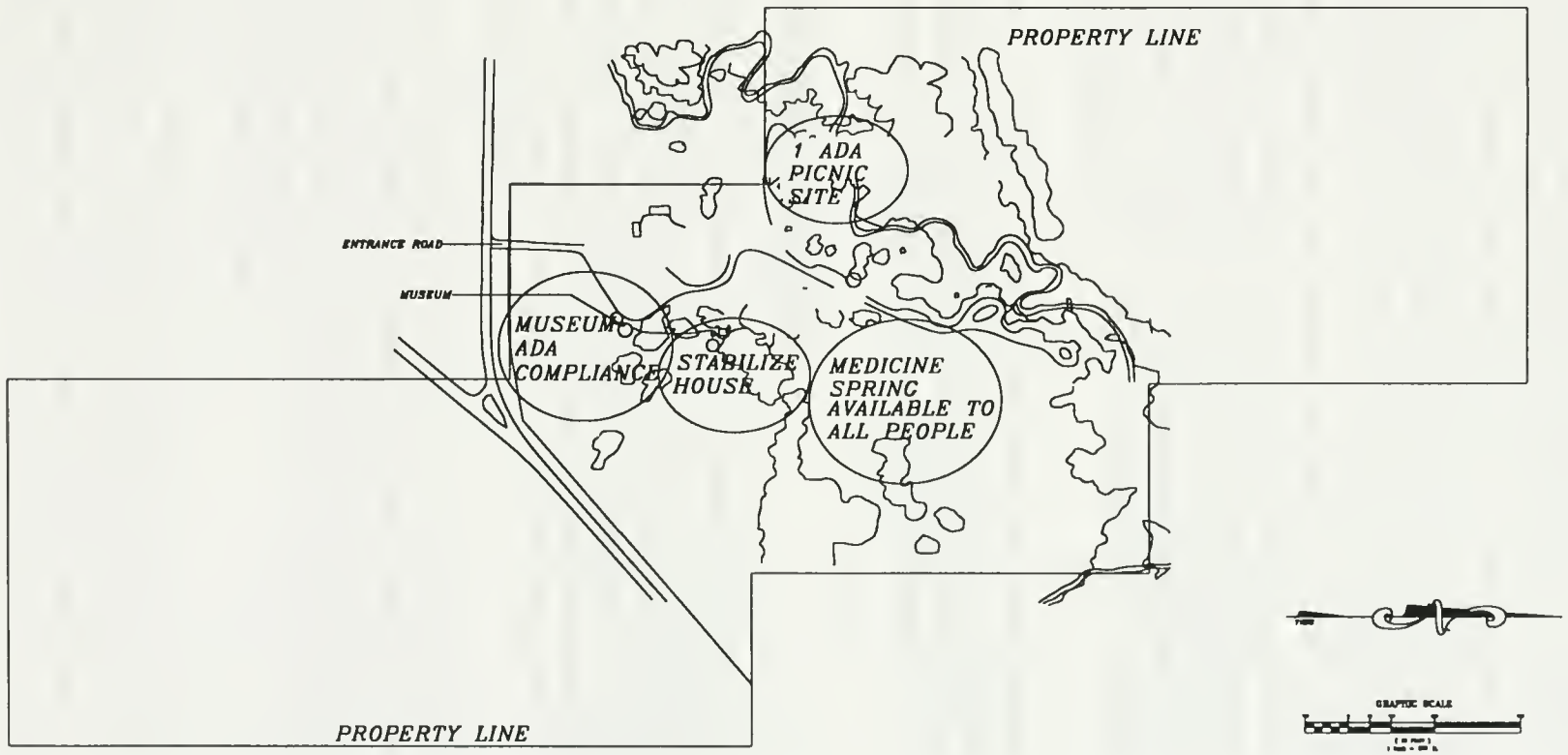
ALTERNATIVE B



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CHIEF PLENTY COUPS STATE PARK
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PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action constitutes the Department's proposed plan for Chief Plenty Coups State Park. It is the result of recommendations of State Parks staff, the Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council, museum and resource management professionals, attendees at a focus group session, as well as members of the general public who comment as part of the Environmental Review process. It emphasizes protection and respect for sacred sites and artifacts, while maintaining the current level of visitor services for both the community and for tourists, and includes proposals to improve the park and museum interpretive program Funding to implement this plan will come from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources which is detailed later on in the plan. FWP funding will remain at or near the FY97 level. As with all other alternatives, management actions and visitor services are subject to funding and staffing (with funding indexed for inflation), which are dependant upon many factors, including FWP statewide priorities, the state's economy, and future legislation. In the event of unforseen reductions in funding or staffing, services under this plan will be reduced. If necessary, such reductions would be areas such as reduced hours of operation, reduced grounds and facilities maintenance, etc.

The goal of this action is to maintain the character of the historic and cultural elements within the park, while embodying Chief Plenty Coups' vision of education and cooperation between Indian and non-Indian peoples. The park will serve the recreational and social needs of the community, while protecting its significant historic and cultural resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management decisions will be based heavily on cultural resources protection. The June 1993 and May 1998 archeological studies, which were done prior to the stabilization projects on the Chief's house, confirmed once again that much of the park land is rich with cultural deposits. Since Chief Plenty Coups State Park is defined as an Historic and Cultural Park, cultural resources need to be managed as a high priority. Cultural resources, both known and not-yet-discovered within the park, will therefore be the key feature that other management decisions will be built around.

The Medicine Spring and the marked graves will be protected through the presence of park staff and through appropriate signing. The Medicine Spring will be available for use by the Crow people. The current practice of clearing the aquatic vegetation (mostly watercress—*Nasturtium officinale*) from the spring will be continued in order to facilitate the filling of water containers by people who wish to use the water. These sites will be interpreted by park staff and volunteers during tours.

Offerings will be allowed to remain where they are placed until they are removed by natural forces (winds, animals, decay, etc.). Since most of the offerings made by Crow people are biodegradable items, a large accumulation of offerings is not anticipated. Any items which are offensive or the result of vandalism or pranks will be removed. When offerings are very large, very visible, or they do not decompose within a season, the Park Manager will consult

with Crow spiritual leaders and elders to handle these situations. Signing in the area of the Chief's House will interpret the Spring and its spiritual significance. This signing will also explain the significance of offerings, and will discourage non-Crow visitors from placing offerings or from disturbing existing offerings.

The Chief's house is currently scheduled for interior stabilization work for 1997-98. Public tours will be conducted by park staff and volunteers once stabilization is completed. The house and store will be monitored, inspected and maintained by park staff and studied for possible future restoration, but none of the other structures that were once present on the site will be reconstructed.

Recreational facilities development will be concentrated in the western portion of the park, thus keeping the Historic/Cultural Zone near the key historic and cultural features (the Medicine Spring, the Chief's house, the marked graves, etc.) in a more accurate and appropriate manner. Any development that will disturb the soil will require archeological study and, if indicated by the study, appropriate mitigation. The marked gravesites will be maintained as a memorial gravesite and will not be considered for new burial requests.

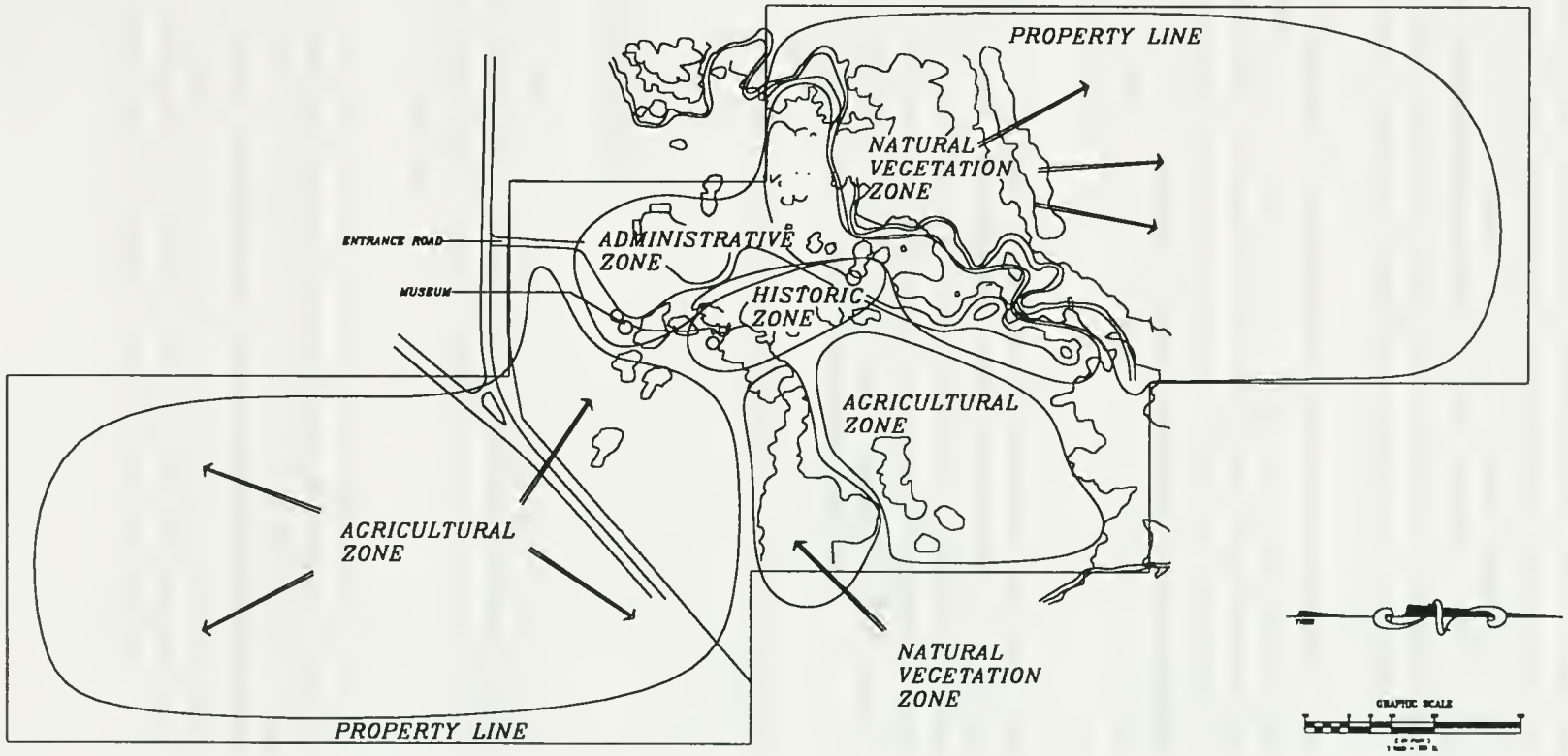
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The primary emphasis in regard to the natural resources within the park will be the prevention of overuse and erosion. A botanical survey in August, 1993 identified two distinct native plant communities in the park: wet bottomlands along Pryor Creek, and dry, rocky uplands at the western end of the park. The bottomlands are dominated by cottonwoods, box elder, various shrubs, and native grasses. The upland plant community is dominated by sagebrush, wild plum, skunkbrush, native grasses and prickly pear. The land area of the park will be divided into 4 zones as shown on the vegetation management map on the following page.

Historic/Cultural Zone - This zone encompasses the area around the Medicine Spring, the Chief's house, the museum, and the marked graves. Land management in this area will focus primarily on protection of these key features, and maintenance of historically compatible vegetation. Lawn areas, agricultural areas, brush and trees will be managed to minimize any threat to the historic and cultural features. Lawns and brush will be maintained to minimize fire danger. Brush will be cleared and grass mowed within 10 feet of all foot traffic areas to minimize rattlesnake/visitor encounters. Trees will be pruned or removed as needed to minimize potential structural damage to key features. New cottonwood trees, cultivated from cuttings of the existing mature trees, have been planted near the Chief's house to replace the existing trees. Existing pathways around the Chief's house will be surfaced with an accessible hard surface, colored and textured to match native soils.

Recreational/Administrative Zone - This zone will encompass the portions of the park developed for recreation, such as the picnic areas, parking areas, etc. It will also include

RESOURCE ZONES



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the manager's residence and the maintenance shop. Lawn areas and brush within this zone will be managed primarily to emphasize visitor safety and secondly, aesthetics. Trees will be pruned or removed as needed to prevent visitor injuries from falling branches, etc. New trees of the same species will be planted to replace those which are removed. The emphasis in tree replacement will be the use of native species, such as box elder (*Acer negundo*). A fenced area will be established around the administrative area for visual screening. Lawn areas will be mowed a minimum of 10 feet on each side of picnic facilities and trails to keep tall grasses back sufficiently for fire and weed control, and to minimize encounters with rattlesnakes.

Agricultural Zone - This zone will include the areas that have been historically leased out, used for hay production or tilled for grain crops. This zone will provide for a cost effective way to maintain the historically accurate aesthetics of the park. Restoration of apple orchards within this zone will be studied within the next five years. If restoration is determined to be feasible, it would be scheduled to take place during the 5 year time frame of this plan. (Note: haying may also be used in other zones as needed, if deemed practical, to manage vegetation in those zones.)

Natural Vegetation Zone - This zone encompasses the corridor along Pryor Creek and the hillsides north of Pryor Creek. This area was identified by Vanderhorst in August, 1993 as having a high potential for occurrences of Montana Plant Species of Special Concern (MPSSC). Management in this zone will consist of retention of the existing natural vegetation. Trees, shrubs, and grasses will be allowed to grow unmanaged. This zone will continue to provide habitat for songbirds, various small mammals, and deer.

Vegetation along Pryor Creek, which flows through this zone, will be maintained in its natural state.

ROUGH MOWING CONTRACT

In the developed portion of the park, as well as in most of the central portion of the park, weeds and tall grasses are controlled by means of a rough mowing contract. This land area has been used for agricultural purposes since Chief Plenty Coups lived here, and this practice has continued until the present day.

In order to preserve the historic character of the park from Chief Plenty Coups' time, it is necessary to continue to hold back natural plant succession in these areas. Otherwise these areas will revert to shrubs and other vegetation which will change the appearance from when the Chief lived here. Currently, a rough mowing contract accomplishes this purpose, but it does create aesthetic problems when work is actually in progress. Administration of the contract is also time consuming for park staff. Under this plan, this contract will be continued, but other appropriate methods of vegetation control will be investigated.

VISITOR SERVICES AND INTERPRETATION

Visitor services will be enhanced through facilities development and operational changes. A primary concern voiced at the focus group session, and reinforced often by the public, is the limited hours of operation of both the museum and the park The operational hours are primarily a function of staff availability. Park hours will be maintained from 8 a m to 8 p.m., but the operating season will be expanded to an April through October season, weather permitting. (Current season is May through September.) Museum hours will remain at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. under this plan, but staffing reprioritization will result in these hours being adhered to more reliably.

Picnic facilities will be expanded to include group use facilities, improved roads and parking areas, and an upgraded water system to provide for both adequate and reliable drinking water in picnic areas, and adequate irrigation to maintain quality turf grass in these areas. Playground equipment will be provided in one of the picnic areas.

Accessibility for disabled persons will be upgraded at priority areas within the park and museum, such that the following facilities and experiences will be available to all visitors:

- Restrooms, in museum and in at least one picnic area
- Water fountains
- All outside interpretation
- Museum parking
- Fee collection facilities
- Pathways connecting key park features, the museum, and parking
- The Chief's house will be studied, and the first floor will be made accessible to the greatest degree possible without destroying historic integrity (i.e., doorways will not be widened, etc.)

The interpretive program will see expansion in several areas. Museum exhibits and interpretive text will be upgraded. Key artifacts that are needed for permanent and temporary exhibits will be obtained through purchase, long term loans, short term loans, repatriation programs, etc. Storage facilities and staff will also be organized to evaluate and accept donated items.

The existing book sales and consignment sales program will be continued. Products sold at the shop will focus on Chief Plenty Coups, Crow Culture, and inter-cultural peace and cooperation. Crafts sold will be authentically and locally produced Crow crafts.

Interpretive staff and volunteers will be available to give tours of the museum, the historic and cultural sites within the park, and the Chief's house on a limited basis.

The museum will begin collecting oral histories relevant to Chief Plenty Coups, Crow culture and history, and the history of the Pryor area in general.

The museum will provide appropriate work space for researchers who wish to conduct research on the collection.

Research and oral histories will serve as the basis to further improve the content of all park interpretive programs.

The museum will also prepare and circulate "exhibits in trunks" for school use across Montana. These exhibits will spread the word about Plenty Coups, the park and museum, to interested people across the state.

Interpretive plaques and markers outside the museum will be upgraded and expanded to assist visitors with interpretation. An interpretive trail will be built connecting the key interpretive features of the park. This trail will be designed to avoid negatively impacting culturally sensitive areas within the park. Details of interpretive planning will be addressed in an Interpretive Master Plan.

PARK OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Park operations will remain the responsibility of the park manager. Park headquarters will remain in the museum building. Exhibit fabrication will continue to be done in an upgraded facility in the museum basement.

The maintenance shop and garage will remain in its present location and will continue to serve as a storage area for outdoor tools, grounds equipment, and as a repair shop for picnic tables, signs, etc. Additional plantings will provide the screening necessary to visually isolate the shop area from the park.

The park will continue to rely upon the Bureau of Indian Affairs fire station, located 3/4 mile away in Pryor, for fire protection services. It should be noted, however, that the nearest structural fire protection coverage for Pryor is located in Hardin, 60 miles away.

Emergency medical services will continue to be provided by the BIA station in Pryor also. Advanced medical care is available from EMS services in Billings, 35 miles to the north.

Site security will still be provided primarily by the Park Manager, who will continue to be housed in the park under this plan. Experience with other Montana state parks, as well as many other similar parks nationally, shows that on-site residences continues to be the most cost effective method of site security.

BIA Police will continue to provide assistance in cases where they have jurisdiction. The Park Manager will serve as liaison with BIA Police in order to ensure coordination. The Big Horn County Sheriff's Department will also be encouraged to assist with security

patrolling, which is an important deterrent. BLM special enforcement agents will be asked to assist with investigations as needed.

MUSEUM OPERATIONS

The museum will be managed, operated and funded as a "professionally operated small museum," as defined in the 1993 Museum Assessment Program (M.A.P.) report by Ms. Joy Poole. Essentially this definition is used to distinguish a facility from a "visitor center." A professionally operated small museum would emphasize artifact protection, rotation of displays, interpretation and education, where a visitor center would represent more of a caretaker approach. (More detail on this subject is available in the M.A.P. I report, which is available for review at the museum.) Staffing, funding, facilities and programming will all be geared toward this objective.

The key areas of focus will continue to be the life history of Chief Plenty Coups, and the story of the Crow people. Collection expansion, research, interpretation, and exhibits will focus in these two areas. Oral histories will be collected, with priority being given to oral histories which support these key areas.

Staff development, training, recruitment, and retention will be high priorities, with adequate budget allocated to these purposes. Areas of increased expertise through training will include artifact conservation, interpretation, and exhibit design.

The museum and park will be upgraded as noted in the "Visitor Services and Interpretation" and "Development Priorities" sections of this Proposed Plan. This improved physical plant will provide areas for temporary exhibits and special events (improved day use area, parking and road system). In this manner subjects that are outside the key areas of focus could still be presented without diluting the focus of the park and its staff. Examples of additional subjects include history and archeology of the region, cultural demonstrations and exhibitions, temporary exhibits of current Crow arts and crafts, and meetings and special events to promote increased cross-cultural awareness. Special events will be phased in once staffing can be increased as shown in the "Future Needs" section.

Museum artifacts will be stored and in appropriate storage facilities. Complete renovation of museum exhibits will be studied. In the interim, minor improvements will continue to be made using available park operations funds. Artifacts will be available for bonafide researchers on a limited, case-by-case basis, after consultation with Crow cultural leaders.

Key artifacts needed in museum exhibits will be exhibited on a rotational basis in order to minimize any risks or environmental damage that exhibiting might present to particular artifacts.

The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council will be encouraged to be active in areas of volunteer recruitment, general fund raising, and special events coordination and promotion.

LAND ACQUISITION

There is one adjacent parcel of land that the department will attempt to acquire fee simple on or a long-term lease from the owner under this plan. This parcel, Big Horn County tax number B0047, is located directly to the west of the park, in section 6 of township 5 south, range 26 east. It contains 15 acres of the original allotment of Kills Together, wife of Chief Plenty Coups. It is highly visible from the historic sites within the park, and offers important aesthetic contributions to the park. It will also offer space for needed parking for special events, and for proposed expansion of day use facilities.

It should be noted that the Crow Tribe has first right to purchase these properties, should this land be put up for sale, and therefore any purchase attempts should be coordinated with the Crow Tribe. Purchase of these parcels as trust land by the Crow Tribe will be a desirable alternative as this will also be a method to control undesirable land use and will preserve the integrity of Kills Together's allotment.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND COSTS

This proposal emphasizes resource protection, with moderate enhancements to visitor services. Development, therefore, will not be of an extensive nature.

Funding for development in this plan will come from a variety of sources. These are, in order of magnitude: FWP long range building funds, private donations and contributions, Crow Tribal Funds, tourism grants and other grants.

Although a campground would be beneficial to visitors who are traveling long distances to visit the park, a campground is not included in this plan. At the current time, Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff feels that the need to protect the park's historic and cultural resources outweighs the need for overnight accommodations.

The park water systems will be replaced with all new lines buried below frostline. The well tank and controls now located under the Chief's house, will be located in a more appropriate place. The potable and irrigation water needs will be studied in conjunction with the new state and federal drinking water standards to determine the most cost efficient water supply methods (i.e. how many wells should be used and where should they be located). All picnic areas will have an adequate number of accessible drinking fountains and frost-free water hydrants, and an irrigation system will be installed in key lawn areas. Water system design will consider including adequate provisions to supply fire fighting needs within the park.

It should be noted that while the public is permitted to draw water from the medicine spring, this water is not tested for fecal coliform bacteria. The current policy on this matter will be continued, which is to advise people using this water that it should be used "at their own risk."

Sanitary system plumbing serving the museum will be re-aligned to correct winter freeze-up problems.

The restroom in one picnic area will be upgraded to fully accessible facilities.

A system of accessible pathways will be built to allow all visitors to travel easily between key park features and facilities.

Interior stabilization of the Chief's House is funded for 1997-98. Future restoration planning will focus on historically significant eras. Interpretive planning, research and public input will define these actual time periods. The store will also be studied, but none of the other buildings that were once here will be reconstructed.

The issue of the manager's residence (currently a 1976 mobile home) will be studied. One possible action is to replace the current residence with a conventional residence which will more appropriately match park aesthetics.

Outdoor interpretive exhibits near the Chief's house and the grave sites will be replaced and upgraded, and exhibits will be added to interpret the Medicine Spring and the Bozeman Trail. Full interpretive planning for additional interpretive facilities, such as an interpretive trail, will be addressed under a comprehensive Interpretive Master Plan.

The museum will be evaluated for ADA compliant restrooms, meeting space, display area, group presentation area and children's exhibit area when potential funding is identified.

The recommended phasing of these improvements is as follows Ultimately the implementation timetable will depend on funding availability in the State Parks Long Range Improvements Program.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE - PROPOSED PLAN

Item	Design and Construction Costs
Upgrade water systems	$ 108,000
Accessible pathway system	$ 121,500
Outdoor Interpretive Exhibits	$ 40,500
Replace park manager's residence	$ 135,000
Picnic area renovation/ accessible restrooms	$ 87,750
Landscape/ hardscape for above facilities	$ 27,000
Restoration of Chief's house and store	$ 500,000
NOTE: Consulting, Engineering & Contingency (35%) is factored into each cost.	
TOTAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COSTS:	**$1,019,750**

FUTURE PLANS AND STUDIES

As part of the management planning process, four essential studies have already been completed: a) an Historic Perspective Study of Chief Plenty Coups, b) the first level of the American Association of Museums (A.A.M.) Museum Assessment Program, known as a "M.A.P. I" assessment, c) a Conservation Assessment Program (C.A.P.), which examined artifact collection protection and management, and (d) specific research necessary for accurate restoration of the Chief's House. These projects have provided tremendous support for interpretive planning and museum planning.

Future plans and studies, and when they should be conducted, are listed below:

Project	When Needed
• Resource Management Plan	Prior to construction of any new facilities
• Master Site Plan	Prior to construction of any new facilities
• Comprehensive Interpretation Plan	Prior to Exhibit improvements
• MAP II and MAP III Studies	Prior to major museum improvements
• Management Plan Update	Every five years
• Complete Botanical Survey of Native Plant Communities	During summer months, within five years
• Visitor/ Audience Survey	In three to five years

FUTURE NEEDS WITHIN PROPOSED PLAN

The following needs for Chief Plenty Coups State Park were identified by the management planning process. Public comment and review has established that they are necessary, and review by Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff concurs in that these items are both necessary and appropriate. Current funding and staffing resources precludes their incorporation in the Proposed Plan They are therefore listed here as a reference point for future program expansion. A list of potential sources of funding and staffing to provide for these future needs is also identified below.

Potential Sources of Funding and Staffing

- ISTEA Grants
- IMS Project and Operating Grants
- T.I.I.P. Grants
- Custer Country Grants
- Historic Societies
- Federal Grants for Tribal Governments
- National Park Service Grants and Programs
- Crow Tribal Government Programs
- Donations
- State Parks re-directed staffing and funding
- Volunteer Programs
- Internships
- Fund raising by the Friends of Chief Plenty Coups
- Legislative funding for state parks

Future Needs	Estimated Costs
Design and construction of temporary exhibits	$ 5,000/yr
Funding for training of staff in professional museum skills	$ 3,000/yr
Creation of a full time Museum Artifact Collections Management Position	$ 24,000/yr
Funding to periodically contract with a professional conservator	$ 5,000/yr
Funding and staffing to collect oral histories	$ 3,000/yr
Funding and staffing to expand the current interpretive program	$ 4,000 - 10,000/yr
Expansion of current temporary maintenance worker position	$ 2,000 - 5,000/yr

ALTERNATIVE A - PRESERVATION EMPHASIS

This action emphasizes historic preservation at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. It, like the proposed plan, will place a high priority on protection and respect for sacred sites, historic buildings and artifacts. This plan will not provide for increases in visitor services, nor expansion of the interpretive program. Funding to implement this plan will come from a variety of federal, state, local and private sources which is detailed later on in the plan.

This action will have as its goal preserving and protecting the historic and cultural elements within the park. Staffing will be concentrated in areas of historic and cultural preservation and protection. As with all other alternatives, management actions and visitor services are subject to funding and staffing (with funding indexed for inflation), which are dependant upon many factors, including FWP statewide priorities, the state's economy, and future legislation. In the event of unforseen reductions in funding or staffing, services under this plan will be reduced. If necessary, such reductions would be areas such as reduced hours of operation, reduced grounds and facilities maintenance, etc.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management decisions will be based mainly on cultural resources protection. Cultural resources, both known and not-yet-discovered within the park, will be the key features around which other management decisions will be built.

The Medicine Spring and the marked graves will be protected through the presence of park staff and through appropriate signing. Visitation around the Medicine Spring will be limited to those with a specific cultural need or purpose. Offerings and vegetation in the spring will be handled as in the proposed plan.

Museum artifacts will be stored and/or exhibited in existing storage facilities and exhibits. Artifacts of a sensitive nature will not be exhibited at all, and will only be available for conservation oriented research that will assist in better protection of the artifacts. In general, all other requests to view the collection will not be approved.

Facilities development will be minimal, and consist mostly of refining existing facilities. Any development that will disturb the soil will require archeological study, and if indicated by the study, appropriate mitigation action will be taken.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Land use zoning will still be defined as in the proposed plan, i.e. four land use zones. The only difference will be that less emphasis in vegetation management will be placed on aesthetics. Less lawn area in the picnic areas will be mowed as compared to the proposed plan.

VISITOR SERVICES AND INTERPRETATION

Park and museum hours will remain as they are currently. Picnic facilities will receive improved accessibility, but no expansion or group use facilities will be included. Water systems will be upgraded for reliability, but will not be expanded as in the proposed plan. Irrigation systems will not be upgraded.

Accessibility will be upgraded in certain areas of the park and museum such that the following facilities and experiences will be available to all visitors:

- Restrooms, in museum and at least one picnic area
- Water fountains
- Several picnic tables in one picnic area
- Most museum exhibits (interpretive materials will be available in written and audio forms as well)
- Pathways connecting the museum, the Chief's House, and parking, restrooms and the Chief's gravesite.

PARK OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Overall park operations will remain the responsibility of the Park Manager. Park headquarters will remain in the museum building.

The maintenance shop and garage, fire protection functions, and medical services will remain the same as in the proposed plan.

Site security will still be provided primarily by the Park Manager, who will continue to be housed in the park under this plan.

BIA Police will continue to provide assistance in cases where they have jurisdiction. The Park Manager will serve as liaison with BIA Police in order to ensure coordination. The Big Horn County Sheriff's Department will be asked to assist with security patrolling.

MUSEUM OPERATIONS

The museum will be managed, operated and funded as a "professionally operated small museum," as defined in the 1993 Museum Assessment Program (M.A.P.) report by Ms. Joy Poole. Essentially this definition is used to distinguish a facility from a "visitor center." A professionally operated small museum would emphasize artifact protection, rotation of displays, interpretation and education, where a visitor center would represent more of a caretaker approach. (More detail on this subject is available in the M.A.P. I report, which is available for review at the museum.) Staffing, funding, facilities and programming will all be geared toward this objective.

The key areas of focus will continue to be the life history of Chief Plenty Coups, and the story of the Crow people. Research, interpretation, and exhibits will focus in these two areas. Collection expansion will, however, be very limited under this alternative.

Staff development, training, recruitment, and retention will be high priorities, with adequate budget allocated to these purposes. The primary area of increased expertise through training will be artifact conservation.

Museum and park improvements will be more limited than in the Proposed Plan. The museum will focus on the two key areas noted above, and will not attempt to present programs outside of these two areas (i.e. archeology lectures, arts and crafts, cross cultural special events).

The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council will be encouraged to be most active in areas of volunteer recruitment and preservation oriented activities and fund raising.

LAND ACQUISITION

The department will attempt to acquire or lease the 15 acre parcel to the west of the park in order to control aesthetics near the main part of the park.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND COSTS

This proposal emphasizes resource protection, with no enhancements to visitor services. Development will not be of an extensive nature.

Development funding for this plan will come primarily from FWP long range building funds. Exhibits will be upgraded in order to better protect artifacts that are exhibited. Restrooms in one picnic area will be upgraded to fully accessible vault type facilities.

Water systems will be upgraded, but not expanded, with minimal emphasis on irrigation. One picnic area will receive accessible drinking fountains.

The Chief's house will be studied for restoration to the period in the Chief's life of the greatest historical significance. The store will also be studied, but none of the other buildings that were once here will be reconstructed. The manager's residence will remain as is.

The recommended prioritization of these improvements is as follows:

DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE - PRESERVATION EMPHASIS

Item	Design and Construction Costs
Upgrade water systems	$ 67,500
Picnic area improvements/ accessible restrooms	$ 74,250
Landscape/ hardscape for above facilities	$ 13,500
Restoration of Chief's house and store	$ 500,000
Consulting, Engineering and Contingency (35%) is included in above costs.	
TOTAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COSTS:	**$ 655,250**

FUTURE PLANS AND STUDIES

As part of the management planning process, four essential studies have already been completed: a) an Historic Perspective Study of Chief Plenty Coups, b) the first level of the American Association of Museums (A.A.M.) Museum Assessment Program, known as a "M.A.P. I" assessment, c) a Conservation Assessment Program (C.A.P.), which examined artifact collection protection and management, and (d) specific research necessary for accurate restoration of the Chief's House. These projects have provided tremendous support for interpretive planning and museum planning.

Future plans and studies, and when they should be conducted are listed below

Project	When Needed
• Resource Management Plan	Prior to construction of any new facilities
• Restoration research	Prior to any restoration work
• MAP II and MAP III Studies	Prior to major work in museum
• National Historic Landmark Proposal	At any time that staffing and funding permits, but certainly within 5 years
• Management Plan Update	Every five years
• Complete Botanical Survey of Native Plant Communities	During summer months, within five years

ALTERNATIVE B - NO ACTION

This alternative will provide for management of Chief Plenty Coups State Park as department resources allow. It is characterized by a bare minimum of park and museum operations, with limited staff time and funding allocated for visitor services, area maintenance, and museum operations. Funding for operations will continue to come primarily from standard state park system funding sources, such as coal trust revenues, user fees, the accommodations tax (bed tax) and occasional state general tax fund monies.

This action will have as its goal maintaining the park and offering whatever visitor services that this system could afford. This is also comprised as a "caretaker" type operation.

Interpretive programs and exhibit improvements will be very limited under this alternative, and tourism development will remain at existing levels. As with all other alternatives, management actions and visitor services are subject to funding and staffing (with funding indexed for inflation), which are dependant upon many factors, including FWP statewide priorities, the state's economy, and future legislation. In the event of unforseen reductions in funding or staffing, services under this plan will be reduced. If necessary, such reductions would be areas such as reduced hours of operation, reduced grounds and facilities maintenance, etc.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Management decisions will be based heavily on cultural resources protection within budget constraints.

The Medicine Spring and the marked graves will be protected by the presence of park staff. The Medicine Spring will be available for use by local people. The current practice of clearing the aquatic vegetation (mostly watercress - *Nasturtium officinale*) from the spring will be discontinued in favor of allowing the natural vegetation to grow. Offerings will be handled as in the proposed plan. The Chief's house will be monitored, inspected and maintained by park staff, but public tours will not be conducted.

Museum artifacts will continue to be stored and/or exhibited in current storage facilities and exhibits. Artifacts will not be available for research.

Any facilities development will be concentrated in the southwestern and northwestern portions of the park, thereby maintaining a Historic/Cultural Zone near the key historic and cultural features (the Medicine Spring, the Chief's house, the marked graves, etc.) in a more natural and appropriate manner. Any development that will disturb the soil will require archeological study, and if indicated by the study, appropriate mitigation will take place

Key artifacts needed in museum exhibits will continue to be exhibited, but without rotation or periodic inspection by trained staff.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Land use zoning will still be defined as in the previous plans, i.e. four land use zones. The only difference will be that minimal attention will be placed on aesthetics with vegetation management in the Recreational/Administrative Zone. Trees that die or are removed for safety reasons may not be replaced.

VISITOR SERVICES AND INTERPRETATION

Visitor services will be maintained at the current level. Park and museum hours will remain as they currently are (park hours 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; museum hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with occasional closures of museum during these hours due to staff illness or emergencies).

Picnic facilities will remain as they are, and group use facilities will not be developed. Groups could continue to use the regular picnic areas if space is available. Water system will be upgraded as in the proposed plan, but no irrigation system will be installed.

Accessibility will be upgraded in order to bring the park and museum in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), but no further improvements will be made. The following facilities and experiences will be available to all visitors:

- Restrooms, in museum and in at least one picnic area
- Several picnic tables in one picnic area
- Pathways connecting key park features, the museum, and parking

The interpretive program will be provided only when and where resources allow.

PARK OPERATIONS AND STAFFING

Overall park operations will remain the responsibility of the Park Manager. Park headquarters will remain in the museum building.

The maintenance shop and garage will remain in its present location and will continue to serve as a storage area for outdoor tools, grounds equipment, and as a repair shop for picnic tables, signs, etc.

Fire suppression and medical services will remain as they are today.

Site security will still be provided primarily by the Park Manager, who will continue to be housed in the park under this plan.

The Bighorn County Sheriff Department and BIA Police will continue to provide assistance depending on who has the appropriate jurisdiction. The Park Manager will serve as liaison with these agencies in order to ensure coordination.

MUSEUM OPERATIONS

The museum will be operated primarily as a "visitor center" for the park instead of as a museum under this alternative. As a visitor center, exhibits and interpretation will be de-emphasized, and the primary function of the facility will be to provide basic area information to the visitor.

Artifacts will be protected and current exhibits will be maintained, but upgrading and periodic renovation will not be a priority. Distinctions of professional museums, such as professional development in specific museum skills, modern exhibit design methods, exhibit upgrading, educational programs and visitor and audience involvement will not be a priority under this alternative.

The key areas of focus will remain as they are today: the life history of Chief Plenty Coups and the story of the Crow people. Collection expansion, research, interpretation, and exhibits improvements will be the most limited under this alternative. Collection expansion will be limited to original items related to Chief Plenty Coups, if indeed any exist outside of known collections.

Staff development, training, and recruitment will remain limited as they are today. Training will be funded as the limited budget allows.

Museum and park improvements will be the most limited under this alternative. Museum expansion will only take place in the area of public restrooms, and will not include an auditorium or temporary exhibit area. The museum will focus on the two key areas noted above, and will not attempt to present programs outside of these two areas (i e. archeology lectures, arts and crafts, cross cultural special events).

The Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council will be encouraged to be most active in areas of volunteer recruitment and preservation oriented activities and fund raising.

LAND ACQUISITION

No land acquisition is proposed under this alternative.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND COSTS

This proposal represents a "caretaker" type of management for the park. Therefore the only development proposed is replacement of inferior facilities, and improvements mandated by law.

Development funding for this plan will come primarily from FWP long range building funds. Other sources of funding will probably not be available because the limited staff available under this proposal will not be able to cultivate and pursue other sources.

Water systems will be upgraded as in the proposed plan, except that no provisions will be made for irrigation other than the installation of several frost-free hydrants to which above ground sprinklers could be connected.

The only modifications to the museum will be renovation of the existing restrooms to bring them into compliance with current accessibility standards, and upgrading of sanitary plumbing.

Restrooms in one picnic area will be upgraded to fully accessible facilities.

The recommended prioritization of these improvements is as follows:

DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE - ALTERNATIVE B

Item	Design and Construction Costs
Upgrade water systems	$ 67,500
Renovate museum restrooms and sanitary plumbing	$ 60,750
Accessible restroom for picnic area	$ 40,500
Consulting, Engineering and Contingency (35%) is included in each cost.	
TOTAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COSTS:	**$ 168,750**

FUTURE PLANS AND STUDIES

As part of the management planning process, two essential studies have already been done: The first level of the American Association of Museums (A.A.M.) Museum Assessment Program, known as a "M.A.P. I" assessment, an Historic Perspective Study of Chief Plenty Coups, and a Conservation Assessment Program (C.A.P.) study. These projects have provided tremendous support for interpretive planning and museum planning.

Future plans and studies, and when they should be conducted are listed below:

Project	When Needed
• Management Plan Update	• Every five years

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR PROPOSED PLAN

Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed:
residential ..... 0 acres
industrial ..... 0 acres

(b) Open Space/Woodlands/
Recreation ..... <1 acres

(c) Wetlands/Riparian
Areas ..... _ acres

(d) Floodplain ..... _ acres

(e) Productive:
irrigated cropland ..... _ acres
dry cropland ..... _ acres
forestry ..... _ acres
rangeland ..... _ acres
other ..... _ acres

Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name	Permit	Date Filed/#

(b) Funding:

Agency Name	Funding Amount

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name	Type of Responsibility

- Crow Tribal Government
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
  - Parks Division
  - Design and Construction Section
  - Lands Section
  - Region 5 FWP Supervisor
- Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
▸ a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?	none	none	none		
b Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?	none	none	none		
▸ c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	none	none	none		
d Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?	none	none	none		
e Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?	none	none	none		
f Other _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
▸ a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))	none	none	none		
b Creation of objectionable odors?	none	none	none		
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	none	none	none		
d Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?	none	none	none		
e ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)	none	none	none		
f. Other _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
► a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	none	none	none		
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	none	none	none		
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?	none	none	none		
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?	none	none	none		
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	none	none	none		
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?	none	none	none		
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?	none	none	none		
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?	none	none	none		
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?	none	none	none		
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?	none	none	none		
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?	none	none	none		
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)	none	none	none		
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)	none	none	none		
n. Other _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. VEGETATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	none	none	none		
b. Alteration of a plant community?	none	none	none		
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?	none	none	none		
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?	none	none	none		
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?	none	none	none		
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?	none	none	none		
g. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

▸ 5. FISH/WILDLIFE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?	none	none	none		
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?	none	none	none		
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?	none	none	none		
d. Introduction of new species into an area?	none	none	none		
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	none	none	none		
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?	none	none	none		
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?	none	none	none		
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)	none	none	none		
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)	none	none	none		
j. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	none	none	none		
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?	none	none	none		
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?	none	none	none		
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?	none	none	none		
e. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative it needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?	none	none	none		
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?	none	none	none		
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?	none	none	none		
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?	none	none	none		
e. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?	minor	minor	minor		7,8
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?	none	none	none		
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?	none	none	none		
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)	minor	minor	minor		7
e. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

7. Pesticides used in weed management program for proposed plan and all alternatives represents a minor spill hazard. Pesticides applied by park personnel are applied by licensed operators in quantities not exceeding 2 gallons at any one time. Weed control over larger areas is conducted by Big Horn County on a contract basis as per state statutes.

8. There will be a temporary hazard of spill of the oil used for asphalt surfacing of park roads and parking areas in the proposed plan. The contractor will be required to have a spill protection plan in place before proceeding with any work. This hazard will end when surfacing work is completed.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?	none	none	none		
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?	minor	none	none		9
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?	none	none	none		
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?	none	none	none		
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?	minor	minor	none		10
f. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

9. Expanded interpretive programs under proposed plan will help to enhance cultural and family values in the community.

10. Proposed plan will result in increased attendance of approximately 30% or additional 6,000 people visiting Pryor annually. Increased visitation would increase traffic in this small community, but the increase would be minor and would be distributed throughout the operating season.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:	none	none	none		
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?	none	none	none		
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?	none	none	none		
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?	none	none	none		
▸ e. Define projected revenue sources	see below	see below	see below		11
▸ f. Define projected maintenance costs.	comment #12	comment #12	comment #12		12
g. Other._____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

11. Projected revenue sources include FWP state parks funding (earned revenue, coal tax trust funds, accommodations tax, and general fund allocations), Advisory Council fund raising efforts, and various grants.

12. Projected annual maintenance costs for the proposed plan and the alternatives is $17,828 per year, which represents the current annual budget for the park and museum

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▸ 11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?	none	none	none		
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?	none	none	none		
▸c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)	minor	minor	none	N/A (see note below)	13
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)	none	none	none		
e. Other: _____	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

13. Proposed plan will improve park aesthetics, and therefore scenic views and vistas within the park and within the Pryor community. The proposed plan will offer increased recreational opportunities which include expanded picnic areas, improve accessibility throughout the park and museum, and expand interpretive programs Since these "potentially significant" effects represent positive effects or improvements in these value areas, mitigation is not required.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
▸a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?	minor	minor	minor	Yes	14
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?	minor	minor	minor	Yes	15
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?	minor	minor	minor	Yes	16
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? **Attach SHPO comments.** (Also see 12.a)	minor	minor	minor	Yes	17
e. Other: Archeological studies and, if necessary, mitigation, will be performed or construction plans would be redesigned to avoid disturbance.	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

14 Construction activities, such as replacement and expansion of water system, etc. could disturb archeological resources. Archeological surveys will be conducted prior to all work, and mitigation or avoidance by relocating or designing projects will be practiced consistently. Water line replacement will utilize existing trenches wherever possible.

15 Increased visitation to the park through the increased world-wide interest in Native American history and culture, may interfere with current cultural values in the park and surrounding community.

16 Under the proposed plan enhanced interpretation will increase protection and respect for unmarked graves, marked graves, sacred artifacts in museum collection, and Medicine Spring. Continuing the current practice of periodically clearing vegetation from the Medicine Spring is controversial in that this practice is favored by some Crow tribal members, while it is discouraged by other tribal members. The park manager will continue to seek the advice of tribal members and spiritual leaders on this and other spiritual and religious matters.

17 Under the proposed plan and alternative "A" restoration of Chief Plenty Coups' house and store, picnic area improvements, and other construction work will be conducted in cooperation with and with review by SHPO. Archeological studies, and if necessary, mitigation, will be performed prior to construction.

Comments on Mitigation: The management plan specifies that Crow elders and cultural people will be consulted on spiritual, religious and cultural matters. This involvement should be adequate to avoid any significant negative impacts. If mitigation is required, the above listed people will be involved in designing the mitigation. If any proposed changes cannot be mitigated, they will be removed from consideration.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT BY ALTERNATIVE			Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	PROPOSED PLAN	ALT. A	ALT. B		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)	none	none	none		
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?	none	none	none		
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?	none	none	none		
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?	none	none	none		
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?	none	none	none		
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13c)	none	none	none		
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.	none	none	none		

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed): Proposed plan and alternatives will have no effects as defined by this section.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

The following alternatives to the proposed plan are discussed in their own chapters earlier in this document:

- Alternative A - Preservation Emphasis
- Alternative B - No Action

The proposed plan is the preferred plan because it provides enhanced benefits in areas of resource protection, interpretation, cultural awareness, and recreational opportunities, while it incurs only minimal direct and cumulative negative effects.

Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

Archeological studies will be performed prior to any soil disturbance which would result from any construction proposed under this plan. These studies will be done under guidance and in compliance with SHPO. Mitigation work will be conducted if the archeological research warrants such.

Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO
If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

Preliminary environmental review indicates that all effects of the proposed plan will either be minor or none. An EIS is required where severe impacts are likely. Should public comment bring to our attention significant impacts that were not originally identified, an EIS may be warranted.

Chief Plenty Coups State Park protects unique cultural resources, and the proposed plan works to enhance protection and interpretation of these resources. Unique natural features consist of the Medicine Spring, and approximately 60 acres of undisturbed upland plant community at the western end of the park. Neither area is scheduled for any disturbance under this plan.

Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

Public involvement with this project has been extensive. Involvement is outlined in Chapter 1, "Introduction," under "Planning process and public involvement."

Duration of comment period:

30 days for first draft, 30 days for second draft

NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

The majority of effects under the proposed plan and its alternatives will be minor or none. Several of the impacts listed as minor (noise, offensive odors, dust, etc.) are related only to planned construction activities, and are therefore temporary in nature.

Minor impacts that will be of a more permanent nature are essentially those that relate to increased visitation. Due to increased worldwide interest in Native American history and culture, park visitation is likely to increase regardless of which planning option is implemented. Additional visitors will add some vehicular traffic to the small community of Pryor, and possibly cause some additional disturbance of wildlife in the area. Additional visitation will also result in some increase in solid waste deposited in park trash cans.

There are potentially significant positive impacts in the area of enhanced interpretation. The proposed plan and its alternatives define that the Crow Tribal Cultural Chairperson, elders and spiritual leaders will be consulted closely in regard to each of these areas. This close communication and willingness on the part of FWP to abandon changes that would indeed cause negative impacts are the key to successful mitigation of any impacts to the religious use of the park.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF VASCULAR PLANT SPECIES

List of Vascular Plant Species Identified by James Vanderhorst at Chief Plenty Coups State Park on August 31, 1993, their common names, and habitats where they occur.

Acer negundo	Boxelder	riparian woodlands
Artemesia campestris	common sagewort	rocks
Artemesia cana	silver sagebrush	sagebrush grasslands
Artemesia frigida	fringed sage	rocks and sagebrush
Astragalus adsurgens	locoweed	sagebrush grasslands
Astragalus drummundii	locoweed	sagebrush grasslands
Beckmannia syzigachne	sloughgrass	riparian grasslands
Betula occidentalis	water birch	riparian thickets
Bouteloua gracilis	blue grama	dry grasslands
Bromus tectorum	downy brome	disturbed grasslands
Centaurea maculosa	spotted knapweed	disturbed areas
Cirsium arvense	Canada thistle	disturbed areas
Cornus stolonifera	dogwood	riparian thickets
Conium maculatum	poison hemlock	wet, disturbed areas
Cyanoglossum officinale	houndstongue	disturbed areas
Elymus spicatus	bluebunch wheatgrass	sagebrush grasslands
Epilobium paniculatum	willow herb	dry hills
Glycyrrhiza lepidota	licorice	disturbed areas
Gutierrezia sarothrae	snakeweed	sagebrush grassland
Helianthus rigidus	sunflower	rocks and sagebrush
Juniperus horizontalis	creeping juniper	rocks
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce	disturbed areas
Liatris punctata	blazing star	sagebrush grasslands
Melilotus officinale	sweetclover	disturbed areas
Phleum pratense	timothy	hayfields
Populus balsamifera	balsam poplar	riparian woodlands
Populus deltoides	plains cottonwood	riparian woodlands
Prunus americana	wild plum	dry shrublands
Prunus virginiana	chokecherry	thickets
Psoralea tenuiflorum	scurf-pea	sagebrush grasslands
Rhus trilobata	skunkbrush	dry shrublands
Selaginella densa	spike moss	rocks and sagebrush
Solidago nemoralis	goldenrod	rocks
Solidago rigida	goldenrod	rocks
Sonchus uliginosus	sow thistle	wet, disturbed areas
Yucca glauca	Spanish bayonet	dry grasslands

APPENDIX B

LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS

List of Preparers

• **Ken Oravsky**	Park Operations Supervisor, FWP Region 5 Office in Billings (406) 247-2955
• **Rich Pittsley**	Park Operations Specialist, Chief Plenty Coups and Pictograph Cave State Parks (406) 252-1289
• **Lawrence Flat Lip**	Museum Assistant, Chief Plenty Coups State Park (transferred 4/94)
• **Gretchen Olheiser**	State Park Operations Bureau Chief and Historic Sites Coordinator, FWP Helena Office (retired 12/93)
• **Paul Valle**	Landscape Architect, FWP Helena Office (406) 444-3755
• **Dana Dolsen**	Sociologist, FWP Helena Office (406) 444-4308

List of Reviewers

- **Richard Ellis** (FWP)
- **Ray Berntsen** (FWP)
- **Mary Ellen McDonald** (FWP)
- **John Pretty on Top** (Crow Tribe)
- **C. Adrian Heidenreich Ph.D.** (Montana State University - Billings)
- **Beate Galda** (FWP Legal Unit)
- **Kirby Lambert** (MT Historical Society)
- **Marcella Sherfy** (State Historic Preservation Officer)
- **Harley Sorrells** (FWP)
- **Chief Plenty Coups Advisory Council**
  - **Angela Russell**
  - **Heywood Big Day**
  - **Cartie Goes Ahead**
  - **Dennis Beaumont**
  - **Jennifer Flat Lip**
  - **Orlene Wight**
  - **Howard Boggus**
  - **Judy McNally**
  - **Lynda Borque-Moss**
  - **Violet Papp**
  - **Jon James**
  - **Jim Halberg**
  - **Terry Zontek**

APPENDIX C

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliography

- Chief Plenty Coups Historic Structure Report, Jeff Sheldon, A.I.A., November, 1992
- National Historic Landmark Nomination for Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Sherri Deaver and Kevin Kooistra, September, 1991
- Determination of Potential Destructive Impacts at Chief Plenty Coups State Park in Big Horn County, Montana, Lynelle Peterson and Tina Quirt, June 1993
- Rapid Ecological Assessment of Selected State Lands in Southcentral Montana for Plant Species of Special Concern, James P. Vanderhorst, October, 1993

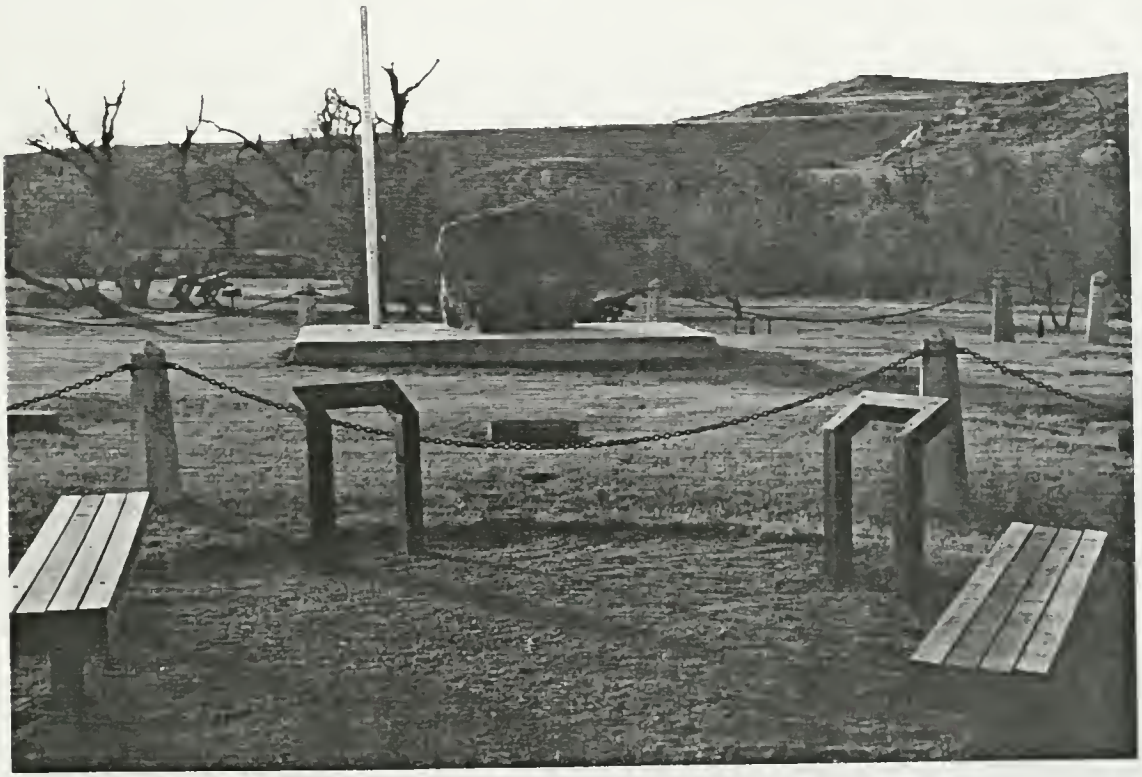
APPENDIX D

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PARK

Chief's House and store after stabilization and partial restoration. Restored north porch is visible at right. Interpretive area is located in foreground.

View of west facade of Chief's House.

View of Medicine Spring with watercress. Note the proximity of the spring to the house.



Marked gravesites of Chief Plenty Coups, Kills Together and Strikes the Iron. Monument and flagpole in the background donated by Billings Kiwanis Club. Interpretive panels in foreground were removed for winter storage. Sandstone bluffs in the background are within park boundaries.

View of museum from parking area.

Museum entrance.

View of museum from the south. Note round window facing the castle rocks area of the Pryor Mountains, and also note handicapped accessible ramp at right.

View of Park manager residence with Pryor Mountains visible in the background.

View of maintenance garage.

View of picnic area. A latrine type restroom, non handicapped accessible, is visible at right.

View of apple trees remaining from the Chief's orchards.

View of adjoining land use, bordering park on the west side. This parcel is recommended for acquisition in the proposed alternative.

APPENDIX E

NOTES ON REVIEW OF FIRST DRAFT

A total of 20 people reviewed the first draft at the scheduled open houses, and an additional 70 people and interested groups reviewed the plan by mail. A presentation was also made to Crow Tribal Chairperson Clara Nomee and her staff, and a Fish, Wildlife and Parks internal review was also conducted at this time.

Based on review of the first draft, several changes have been made to this second draft:

- The Tourism Emphasis Alternative, presented in the first draft as "Alternative B," was eliminated from consideration. Comments received indicated that it represented over-development of the park, and that the proposed plan included adequate improvement for regional and statewide tourism enhancement.

- Staffing levels and budgets for all alternatives have been brought in line with FWP's projected available funding and limited growth.

- The summary tables have been moved toward the front of the document to help orient the reader and make the document more understandable.

APPENDIX F

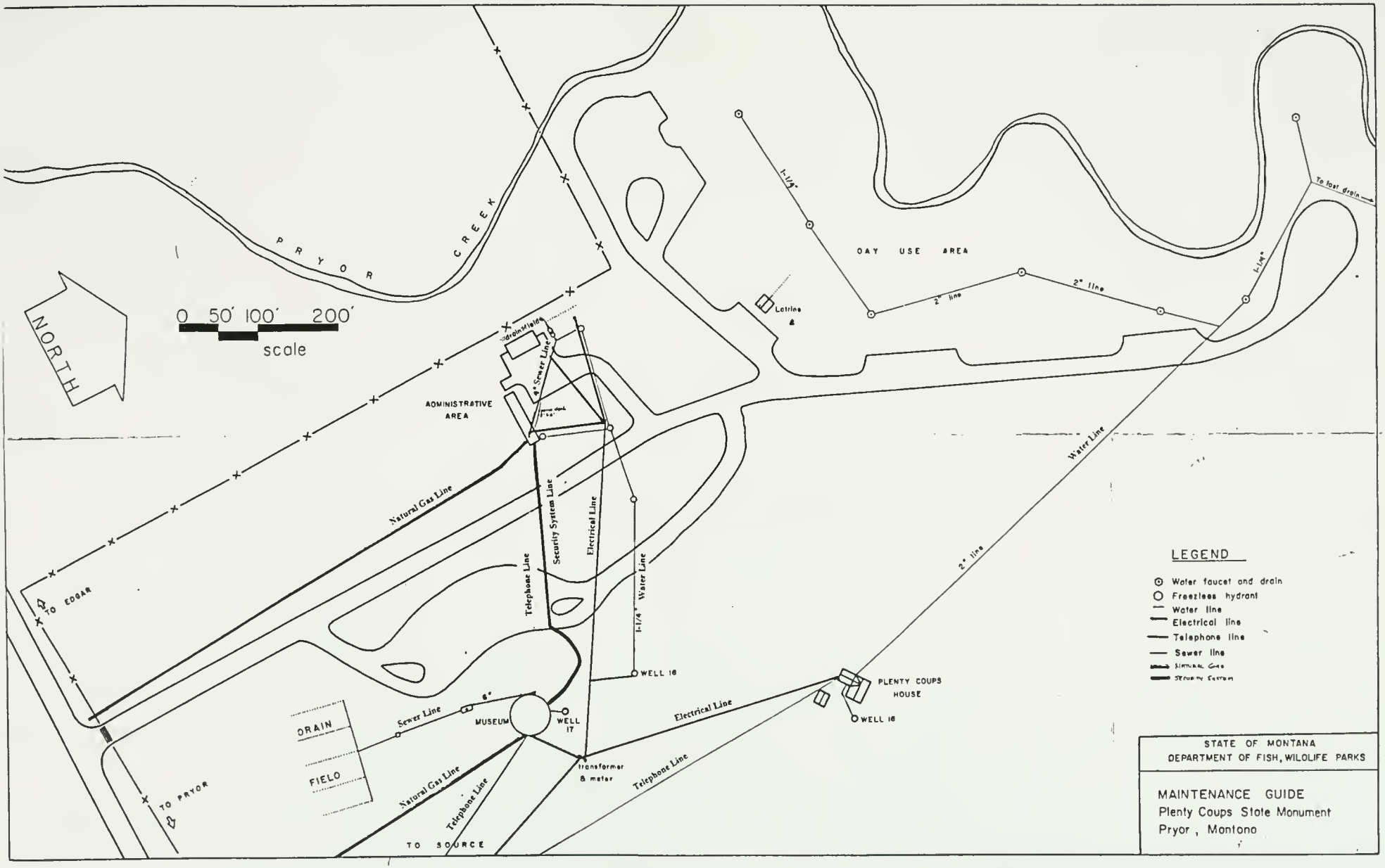
SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDICES

(Available for review at Chief Plenty Coups State Park and at FWP Region 5 Office in Billings, MT)

- Focus Group Report - Ann L. Clancy, March, 1993
- M.A.P. 1 Survey (Museum Assessment Program Report) of Chief Plenty Coups Museum and State Park - Joy Poole/ A.A.M. - January, 1994
- Historic Perspectives Study on the Life of Plenty Coups, Chief of the Crow Tribe - C. Adrian Heidenreich, Ph.D.
- C.A.P. (Conservation Assessment Program) Report - Kay-Karol Horse Capture - August, 1994

APPENDIX G

UTILITY MAP


NORTH
0 50' 100' 200'
scale
PRYOR CREEK
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA
Drainfield
4" Sewer Line
Natural Gas Line
Security System Line
Electrical Line
Telephone Line
1-1/4" Water Line
WELL 16
TO EDGAR
TO PRYOR
DRAIN FIELD
Sewer Line
6"
MUSEUM
WELL 17
Natural Gas Line
Telephone Line
TO SOURCE
transformer & meter
Electrical Line
Telephone Line
PLENTY COUPS HOUSE
WELL 18
Water Line
2" line
DAY USE AREA
Latrine
1-1/4"
2" line
2" line
1-1/4"
To lost drain
LEGEND
Water faucet and drain
Freezless hydrant
Water line
Electrical line
Telephone line
Sewer line
Natural Gas
Security System
STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE PARKS
MAINTENANCE GUIDE
Plenty Coups State Monument
Pryor, Montana